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CAUSE OF THERMOTROPISM IN ROOTS.

Ackerson (Bot. Gaz. Sept. '14), experimenting with roots at temperatures 10° to 40° C., finds that the cells of the concave side of a root, which curves because of different temperatures on its opposite sides, are more permeable than those on the convex. Permeability to dissolved substances means less turgor, or shrinking. He believes, because of the complete parallelism, that the temperature changes cause variation in permeability; and variation in permeability results in curvature. Hence what we call thermotropism is not a direct tropism, but a turgor movement.

TRUE HERMAPHRODITISM IN MAMMALS.

True hermaphroditism means the existence of ovaries and testes in the same individual, and is not a matter of external organs. Pick (Arch. Mikr. Anat. lxxxiv (1914) 2te. Abt. p. 119) makes an elaborate discussion of the subject of hermaphroditism in the mammals including man. The testicular or ovarian quality of the glands can be determined even tho they may not produce functional sex cells. Eleven cases are known in hogs and three in man in which both germinal organs are found in an individual. Both glands may occur on each side, or the testis may be on one side and the ovary on the other.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF HAIR?

Botezat (Anat. Anzeig xlvii, 1914) holds that the hairs of mammals are distinctive structures and are not homologous with any of the various epidermal vertebrate structures to which they have been likened. They have been homologized with fish scales of various kinds, teeth, skin sense organs of amphibians and reptiles, and have even been considered as mere specialized portions of the epidermis itself. The author feels that they probably arose as tactile structures, and their protective function is a derived one.

SUPPRESSION OF MOULTING IN BIRDS.

Beebe (Zoologica, i, 1914; p. 253) gives an interesting account of the effects of keeping birds from breeding in the spring and summer and, as autumn comes, keeping them quiet, in somewhat darkened cages, and with increased food. Tanagers so treated kept